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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/114,352	07/13/1998	TOMOKO TERAKADO	SONY-P8770	9117

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EXAMINER

KOENIG, ANDREW Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2611	

2611

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003

22

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No. 09/114,352	Applicant(s) TERAKADO ET AL.
Examiner Andrew Y Koenig	Art Unit 2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 2003.
- 2a)  This action is FINAL.
- 2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 1 and 4-22 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 1, 4-22 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11)  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a)  approved b)  disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6)  Other:

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 4-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. After further reexamination of the references previously cited, the examiner is presenting a different interpretation of the Davis reference. Whereas, at the time of the interview, an agreement was marked as being reached, a new rejection is being made. The examiner apologizes for any inconvenience.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 4, 6-10, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,579,055 to Hamilton et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,559,548 to Davis et al.

Regarding claims 1, 8, 9, 10, and 15-18, Hamilton teaches transmitting EPG data in the vertical blanking interval (VBI) of the transmitted signal, which is received by the set top tuner (col. 11, ll. 13-20). Hamilton teaches receiving the audio and video (fig. 7, lab. 700), and displaying the image signal to the display (col. 15, ll. 54-56). Hamilton teaches extracting the EPG data with the television tuner (col. 2, ll. 42-54). Hamilton

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teaches updating the EPG data every 30 minutes or for a program change (col. 5, ll. 55-60); updating the EPG reads on altering the display format. Regarding the limitation of "in accordance with predetermined information," Hamilton teaches receiving and accepting a template from the EPG supplier (col. 5, ll. 49-52). Clearly, Hamilton teaches outputting the altered EPG (received every 30 minutes or program change) to the display in order to display the updated information to the user.

Hamilton teaches implementing the system in other environments such as satellite systems, over-the-air broadcasts, subscription television services, etc. But, Hamilton is silent on a broadcaster adding EPG data and generating an image signal. Terasawa teaches a system where the broadcaster adds EPG data and simultaneously encodes image signals (see fig. 1), which reads on generating image signals. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hamilton by using a broadcaster that adds EPG data while simultaneously generating image signals as taught by Terasawa in order to simultaneously send information along with the programming and thereby efficiently using the available bandwidth.

Hamilton is silent on the each broadcasting station having a provider tag and altering the display to show a preference to the provider tag. Davis teaches displaying a preference to the first broadcasting station to the product provider, cable system, or multi-system operator (MSO) logo, or both, see "TV Guide" as shown in figure 5a, col. 8, ll. 59-64. Accordingly, Davis teaches that each cable system can show preference to their network with the presence of their logo. Clearly, one recognizes that the system

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Davis has a plurality of broadcasting stations and enables each of those stations to provide the user with logo identifying their respective cable system, which reads on a first broadcaster (one of a plurality of cable headends (10)) each having a provider tag and representing the first broadcasting station in a display format showing preference to the provider tag of the first broadcasting station over the provider tags of the other stations.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hamilton by using provider tags and showing a preference to a provider tag of a first broadcasting station in order to promote the cable system.

Claims 9 and 10 add the limitation of a computer program used in the receiving apparatus. Clearly, Hamilton inherently must use a computer program in order to receive, store, and display the EPG data.

Regarding claim 4, Hamilton teaches storing the template into memory (col. 5, ll. 49-52), which reads on recording information representing a predetermined broadcasting station.

Regarding claim 6, Hamilton is silent on altering the data so that part of the data is emphasized according to predetermined information. Davis teaches displaying a promotional video and text, which reads on data emphasized in accordance with predetermined information (fig. 7a). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hamilton by

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displaying emphasized information as taught by Davis in order to encourage program viewership.

Regarding claim 7, Hamilton teaches sending the current time and date from the ISP system clock, which reads on additional information added according to predetermined information.

5. Claims 11-14 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,559,548 to Davis et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,147,714 to Terasawa et al.

Regarding claims 11-14 and 19-22, Davis teaches a transmitter and a receiver (as shown in figure 1). Davis teaches editing promotional data stored in the promotional database (col. 6, ll. 3-10), which reads on generating an image signal. Davis teaches a data processor (fig. 1, lab. 110) that generates the EPG (col. 6, ll. 46-53). Furthermore, Davis teaches displaying the product logo (see figure 7a) of TV Guide (as shown in 7b and 7c), which reads on information representing the broadcast station. Davis teaches assembling all the information (i.e. generated EPG, broadcaster information, and promotional information) by the data processor and transmitting the combined signal (col. 6, ll. 46-58).

Davis is silent on a broadcaster adding EPG data and generating an image signal. Terasawa teaches a system where the broadcaster adds EPG data and simultaneously encodes image signals (see fig. 1), which reads on generating image signals. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

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time the invention was made to modify Davis by using a broadcaster that adds EPG data while simultaneously generating image signals as taught by Terasawa in order to simultaneously send information along with the programming and thereby efficiently using the available bandwidth.

Davis teaches displaying a preference to the first broadcasting station to the product provider, cable system, or multi-system operator (MSO) logo, or both, see "TV Guide" as shown in figure 5a, col. 8, ll. 59-64. Accordingly, Davis teaches that each cable system can show preference to their network with the presence of their logo. Clearly, one recognizes that the system Davis has a plurality of broadcasting stations and enables each of those stations to provide the user with logo identifying their respective cable system, which reads on a first broadcaster (one of a plurality of cable headends (10)) each having a provider tag and representing the first broadcasting station in a display format showing preference to the provider tag of the first broadcasting station over the provider tags of the other stations.

Further regarding claim 13, claim 13 adds the limitation of transmitting a computer program. Davis teaches transmitting the EPG data (col. 6, ll. 54-58), which clearly reads on a computer program.

Further regarding claim 14, claim 14 adds the limitation of holding a computer program and using the computer program. Davis teaches a data processor (fig. 1, lab. 110); which inherently uses computer program in order to send and compile the EPG data.

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6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,579,055 to Hamilton et al. and U.S. Patent 5,559,548 to Davis et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,550,576 to Klosterman.

Regarding claim 5, Hamilton teaches updating the display at 30-minute intervals or for program changes (col. 5, ll. 55-60), but is silent on changing the order of data constituting the EPG in accordance to the template. Klosterman teaches various combinations of ordering programs within an EPG; furthermore, channels in an order associated with their particular source (col. 6, ll. 34-39). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hamilton by altering the order of data in the EPG as taught by Klosterman in order to encourage viewers to select programs from various networks.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Y Koenig whose telephone number is (703) 306-0399. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (7:30 - 6:30).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on (703) 305-4380. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.



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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

ayk  
July 22, 2003

  
ANDREW FAILE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600